bilateralcooperation programmes in research and development, training of pesonnel and acquiring state-of-art technologies in the fields of mineral exploration and development.

Mineral Exploration by MECL in A.P.

2826. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) is conducting mineral exploration activities in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, details of the MECL's activities in the State for the last three years;

(c) whether mineral deposits were found in the State during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to(d) Yes, Sir. During the last 3 years, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has carried out exploration for coal in Warangal, Adilabad, Khammam and West Godavari districts and for gold in Kurnool district in the state of Andhra Pradesh.The work involved exploratory drilling, developmental mining and associated geological & laboratory studies.The year-wise breakup of drilling & mining activities of MECL during the last 3 years is as below:—

Year	Drilling (in metres)		Developmental mining (in metres)	
	Coal	Gold	Coal	Gold
1999-2000	26383	—	1342	—
2000-2001	9827	2065	1489	—
2001-2002	17991	6296	934	72

Reserves of 1350.83 million tonnes of coal of various grades and 1.90 million tonnes of gold ore of probable category have been estimated by MECL in Andhra Pradesh.